

Survey for Great Smoky Mountain's Discovery Center

Park Resource Education

Thank you for assisting us by providing your insight and understanding of our target audience of families and children.

The questions in this short survey are intended to help us in our planning for a new Discovery Center which will be housed in the Oconaluftee Visitor Center in the fall of 2000. The Discovery Center's interpretation will be aimed at a 4th - 6th grade reading level.

The goals for the Discovery Center are as follows: To convey to visitors the amazing variety of living organisms within the Park that make it an incredibly rich natural environment; To help visitors understand that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an oasis of living things which survives as a haven for native species and people because of the Park's protection.

Your name: _____ **Position:** _____

How would you characterize the Park audience that you work with? *(Circle all appropriate choices)*

Young children School groups Family visitors Tour groups other: *(specify)*

How frequently does the audience you work with visit the Park? *(Circle all appropriate choices)*

Very frequently Frequently Occasionally Once a year once every few years

During which season do the majority of people you work with tend to visit the Park? *(Spring, summer, fall or winter)*

Rate the types of experiences that you feel visitors would enjoy the most. Identify the age group you think would find this type of activity most appealing.

	Very Enjoyable	Not Enjoyable	Complete Turn off	Age group
Mini-dioramas	1	2	3	_____
Computer Game	1	2	3	_____
Video / Movie	1	2	3	_____
Puzzles	1	2	3	_____
Animal/plant identification key	1	2	3	_____
Opportunity to use real tools	1	2	3	_____
Photographs/ Illustrations	1	2	3	_____
Maps	1	2	3	_____

We will be trying to make visitors more aware of the All Taxa Biological Inventory currently taking place in the Park. Which of the following activities within the Park do you feel visitors are already aware of and which do you feel they would be interested in learning more about.

Aware of this

Would want to know more

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Rate the level of interest you feel the following topics would hold:

	Very Interesting	Moderately Interesting	Not Interesting	Complete Turn off
Historical uses of the Park.	1	2	3	4
Variety of animals and plants in the Park	1	2	3	4
Detective work of biologist/researchers	1	2	3	4

For any of the above topics please elaborate on why this topic would be either of interest or why it would be a turn off.

We are interested in having visitors be aware of the Park's incredible biological diversity. How aware of the following terms would our target audience be? What would their understanding of these terms be?

Habitat

Biodiversity

Species

Mimicry

What are the most frequent questions that you hear people ask about the Park and its activities?

Thank you again for your cooperation and assistance with this survey. Please return this document in the enclosed envelope to Karen Ballentine at the address below:

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park
107 Park Headquarters Road**